

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of assembling a tripod constant velocity joint spider having a trunnion with a trunnion head and a retaining groove, said method comprising:
 - placing a retaining ring in alignment with the trunnion head;
 - applying a force to said aligned retaining ring to expand the diameter of said retaining ring so that a fracture area on said retaining ring fractures;
 - displacing said retaining ring in the retaining groove after fracturing said fracture area.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of placing a retaining ring in alignment with the trunnion head further includes the step of placing a fracturing tool in alignment with said trunnion head and placing said retaining ring in operative alignment with said aligned fracturing tool.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said fracturing tool includes a minimum diameter and a maximum diameter and said retaining ring includes an inside diameter, said inside diameter being greater than said minimum diameter and less than said maximum diameter and wherein said step of placing said retaining ring in operative alignment with said fracturing tool further includes the step of disposing said fracturing tool within said inside diameter.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of applying a force further includes the step of engaging a pressure tool against said retaining ring.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said step of applying a force to said aligned retaining ring further includes the step of applying said force to said aligned retaining ring in the direction of said maximum diameter of the fracture tool, said applied force fracturing said fracture area before said retaining ring passes beyond said maximum diameter.

6. The method of claim 1 further including heat treating said retaining ring before said step of fracturing said fracture area.

7. A retaining ring comprising:
an outer surface;
an inner surface;
a first notch extending from one of said inner and outer surfaces to the other of said inner and outer surfaces; and
a fracture area extending from said first notch to the other of said inner and outer surfaces.

8. The retaining ring of claim 7 wherein said retaining ring further includes a first leg defining said inner surface and a second leg defining said outer surface, said first notch being defined by said first leg.

9. The retaining ring of claim 8 further including a second notch defined by said second leg, said fracture area extending between said first notch and said second notch.

10. The retaining ring of claim 7 wherein said first leg extends outwardly from said inner surface, and said second leg extends outwardly from said first leg, said second leg being angled relative to said first leg.

11. The retaining ring of claim 10 wherein said first notch is defined by said first leg and wherein said second leg defines a second notch extending inwardly from said outer surface toward said first notch.

12. A constant velocity joint comprising:
a trunnion defining a retaining groove;
a retaining ring secured within said retaining groove, said retaining ring including a fracture area that is fractured as said retaining ring is secured in said retaining groove.

13. The constant velocity joint of claim 12 wherein said retaining ring further includes:

a first leg having an inner surface;
a second leg having an outer surface; and
a first notch defined by one of said first and second legs.

14. The constant velocity joint of claim 13 wherein said first notch is defined by said first leg and wherein said second leg defines a second notch, said fracture area extending between said first notch and said second notch.

15. The constant velocity joint of claim 14 wherein said first leg extends outwardly from said inner surface and a second leg extends outwardly from said first leg, said second leg being angled relative to said first leg, said second leg defining said outer surface.

16. The constant velocity joint of claim 15 wherein said first notch is defined by said first leg and said second leg defines said second notch extending inwardly from said outer surface toward said first notch.